

REMARKS

Interview Summary

In the interview held on June 29, 2004, Applicants' Representative and the Examiner discussed the obviousness rejection of claims 1 and 4-9 over Rajagopalan USP 6,207,784. Applicants' Representative proposed amending the claims to define the cycloaliphatic diisocyanate as nonionic. Applicants' Representative also proposed submitting a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 showing unexpected superior properties. The following arguments incorporate the substance of the interview.

Status of the Claims

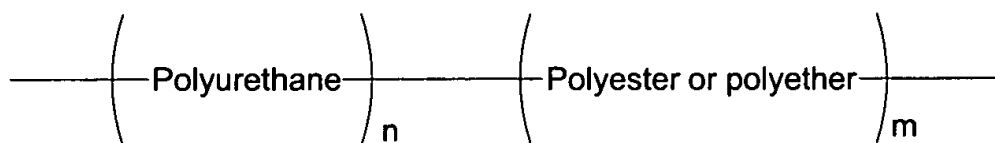
Claims 1 and 4-9 are pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added. Claim 1 has been amended to define the cycloaliphatic diisocyanate as nonionic. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 10 and in the examples. No new matter has been added by the above claim amendments.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

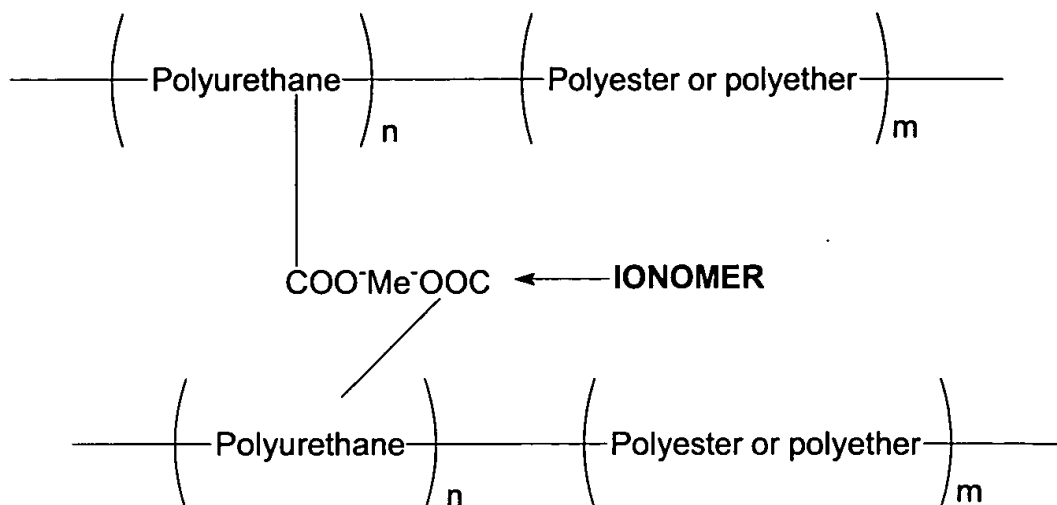
The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 4-9 as obvious over Rajagopalan USP 6,207,784 (Rajagopalan '784) in view of Takesue USP 6,251,991 (Takesue '991). Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the core composition of Rajagopalan '784 is similar to the core material in the present invention and has the same core deformation values. The Examiner also states that Rajagopalan '784 discloses a cover made of 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate. The Examiner admits that Rajagopalan '784 fails to disclose the thickness of the cover. However, the Examiner relies on Takesue '991 for disclosing a polyurethane cover having a thickness of 1-4 mm.

Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over the combination of Rajagopalan '784 and Takesue '991. Rajagopalan '784 fails to disclose the specific cycloaliphatic diisocyanate of the present invention. The cycloaliphatic diisocyanate of the present invention is nonionic. The structure of the polyurethane elastomer of the present invention has the following structure:



Supposing that the backbone of the urethane ionomer of Rajagopalan '784 is the same as the polyurethane elastomer of the present invention, then Applicants submit that the urethane ionomer of the Rajagopalan '784 has the following structure:



It is clear to see that the urethane of Rajagopalan '784 has an ionic group and the polyurethane of the present invention does not have an ionic group.

In the near future, Applicants will likely submit a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 explaining the differences in the structures and pointing out how the present invention has superior properties over the ionic polyurethane used in Rajagopalan '784.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention is not obvious over the combination of Rajagopalan '784 and Takesue '991, since the combination fails to disclose each and every element of the present invention. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Drawings

Applicants submit that no drawings are necessary to understand the present invention. The present invention is a golf ball with a core and a cover. The novel features of the invention are in the materials in which the core and cover are made. Pursuant to 35 USC §113, 37 CFR §1.81 and MPEP 608.02, an Applicant is only required to furnish a drawing of the invention when the drawing is necessary to understanding the subject matter to be patented. Moreover, the nature of the subject matter does not admit of an illustration by a drawing. As such, Applicants maintain that no drawing is necessary to understand the subject matter to be patent and the objection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) months extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$950.00 is attached hereto.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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